

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 DHA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00
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FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0902
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
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E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: SHUM, IR
SUBJ: AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL PLANS CAMPAIGN AGAINST IRAN

SUMMARY: IRANIAN MEDIA HAS DEVOTED SIGNIFICANT ATTENTION TO PLANS REVEALED IN BONN FOR AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL CAMPAIGN AGAINST IRAN. PRESS VIEW IS THAT AMNESTY ATTACKS RESULT FROM IRAN'S WELL PUBLICIZED INDEPENDENT NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND ARE BACKED BY "COLONIAL" AND "SUBVERSIVE" POWERS. TEXT OF SELECTED STORIES AND EDITORIAL COMMENT BEING POUCHED. END SUMMARY.

1. JAN 16 PRESS IN BOTH FARSI AND ENGLISH HEADLINED REPORT FROM BONN THAT AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL PLANNING A WORLDWIDE CAMPAIGN AGAINST IRAN TO BE LAUNCHED THIS WEEK IN LONDON. CITING "SECRET" AMNESTY DOCUMENTS REVEALED BY GERMAN JURISTS, PRESS AND RADIO ACCOUNTS NOTED PROPOSED CAMPAIGN AGAINST IRAN SHOULD BE BASED ON EXISTENCE OF "POLITICAL PRISONERS" IN IRAN. AMNESTY PLAN REPORTEDLY SPEAKS OF "LACK OF INFORMATION ABOUT INDIVIDUAL PRISONERS", AND SAYS CAMPAIGN SHOULD BE CONDUCTED WITH GENERAL REFERENCE TO PRISONERS IN IRAN.

2. IRANIAN PRESS FEATURED PHOTOSTATED EXCERPTS FROM DOCUMENT
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REPORTEDLY DATED AUG 16, 1976, IN WHICH AMNESTY CALLED FOR ITS NATIONAL CONTACTS IN OTHER COUNTRIES TO TRY AND GET ANTI-IRAN PUBLICITY INTO THEIR NATIONAL PRESSES AND ORGANIZE PUBLIC EVENTS TO DRAW ATTENTION TO IRAN. PLAN ALSO EXPRESSED AMNESTY HOPE THAT IT COULD FIND A PRISONER WHO "WOULD MOST LIKELY BE AN EX-TORTURE VICTIM AND WOULD BE A VERY USEFUL ASSET FOR GETTING PUBLICITY FOR CAMPAIGN".

3. JAN 17 TEHRAN JOURNAL CARRIED EDITORIAL "WHOSE VOICE DOES AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL ECHO?". THRUST OF EDITORIAL WAS THAT AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL IS ORGANIZATION WORKING UNDER COVER FOR COLONIAL INTERESTS IN THE WORLD AND, LIKE THEM, IS BENT ON ATTACKING THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES WHICH ADHERE TO NATIONAL INDEPENDENT POLICIES. EDITORIAL SUGGESTS MOST INTERESTING FACET OF TACTICS REVEALED BY DOCUMENTS IS THAT AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL METHODS ARE VERY SIMILAR TO THOSE "USUALLY EMPLOYED BY SECRET SUBVERSIVE ORGANIZATIONS THAT HAVE BEEN RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CREATION OF INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM AND THE PROMOTION OF PEOPLE LIKE THE JACKALL (SIC)". THIS NEW STRATEGY CALLS FOR CREATION OF PUBLIC OPINION PROBLEMS FOR THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES BUT EDITORIAL CONCLUDES THAT IRAN AND OTHER COUNTRIES ARE AWARE OF AMNESTY'S CONNECTIONS WITH KNOWN "COLONIALISTS" AND IMPERIALISTS. FARSI PRESS JAN 18 WENT FURTHER, LINKING AMNESTY TACTICS TO "INTERNATIONAL COMMUNISM" AND BOTH "EASTERN AND WESTERN IMPERIALISMS".

4. BOTH FARSI AND ENGLISH PRESS JAN 18 RAN PARS NEWS AGENCY ACCOUNT OF REACTION IN LONDON AGAINST AMNESTY DISCLOSURES. PARS SAID REVELATION OF AMNESTY'S SECRET ACTION PLAN HAS LED TO WIDESPREAD DISCUSSIONS ON THE ROLE OF THE ORGANIZATION, AND NOTED AMNESTY HAD BEEN PUT IN AN EMBARRASSING SITUATION BY THE GERMAN REVELATIONS. ARTICLE QUOTED UNNAMED JURIST TO EFFECT AMNESTY HAS BEEN AN OPEN ORGANIZATION, BUT ADDITION OF INTELLIGENCE GATHERING FUNCTION WOULD REQUIRE "A FRESH LOOK AT THE SITUATION". PARS ACCOUNT SAID INFORMED SOURCES BELIEVED PUBLICATION OF "SECRET PLAN" COULD CAUSE ORGANIZATION IRREPAR-
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ABLE DAMAGE AND STATED PRESSURE HAS RESULTED IN AMNESTY DIRECTORS' MEETING BEING CALLED. JAN 18 ENGLISH LANGUAGE NEWSPAPER KEYHAN CARRIED ANTI-AMNESTY EDITORIAL SAYING EXPOSURE OF AMNESTY PLAN TO "SEARCH FOR EXCUSES WHICH COULD THEN BE MAGNIFIED AND USED AS A PROPAGANDA STUNT..." WILL RUIN DESIGN OF VESTED INTERESTS TO WEALEN IRAN'S WILL TO CARRY OUT INDEPENDENT DEVELOPMENT POLICIES WHICH ARE PUTTING AN END TO THEIR PRIVILEGED POSITIONS.

5. COMMENT: GERMAN REVELATIONS AS CARRIED HERE APPEAR TO HAVE FINISHED AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL AS ORGANIZATION WORTHY OF ANY CONSIDERATION IN THE EYES OF THE IRANIAN GOVERNMENT FOR THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE. PRIVATE AND OFFICIAL IRANIAN COMMENTS ON EVENTS INDICATE REAL BELIEF THAT AMNESTY IS BOTH TARRED WITH IMPERIALIST BRUSH AND IN LEAGUE WITH MARXIST GROUPS SYMPATHETIC TO TERRORISTS. CRITICAL COMMENT ABOUT AMNESTY TO SAME EFFECT HAS APPEARED IN PRESS FROM TIME TO TIME OVER PAST MONTH.

6. ASSUMING AMNESTY RESPONSIBLE FOR THESE DOCUMENTS, THIS

IS PRECISELY KIND OF "POLITICAL" RATHER THAN "FACT-FINDING"
EFFORT WHICH MAKES EVEN SINCERE HUMAN RIGHTS' ADVOCATES
SUSPECT IN BOTH PRIVATE AND OFFICIAL CIRCLES HERE. INCIDENT
HAS DISMAYED NUMBER OF IRANIANS WHO WISH TO KEEP IMPROVING
LOCAL HUMAN RIGHTS' SITUATION WITH STEADY UNPUBLICIZED
PRESSURES.
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Message Attributes

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